

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00805 190559Z

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 FEA-02

SCI-06 COME-00 INT-08 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 084661

R 190507Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6197

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USCINCEUR

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROR, MARR, SA, IR, UK

SUBJECT: TRI-NATION NAVAL EXERCISE ARYA 74

REF: STATE 32336

1. EMBASSY FEELS THAT TIMING IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR TRI-NATION NAVAL EXERCISE IN PERSIAN GULF. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE EXERCISE IN GULF OF OMAN CAN BE SUBJECTED TO AS MANY MISINTERPRETATIONS AS EXERCISES IN PERSIAN GULF ITSELF. QUESTION SEEMS TO BE WHETHER WE CARE MORE ABOUT OFFENDING IRANIAN OR ARAB SENSITIVITIES. OCCURS TO US THAT IRANIANS WOULD RADILY UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR WISHING TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD PROVOKE ARABS AT PRESENT TIME. IN VIEW RECENT IRAQI-IRANIAN BORDER CLASHES, WOULD SEEM THAT
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IRAN TOO WOULD WISH AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE

INTERPRETED IN A WAY WHICH COULD RESULT IN ARAB OPINION
RALLYING TO IRAQ'S SIDE AT IRANIAN EXPENSE.

2. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE U.S. NAVY
NOT PARTICIPATE IN ARYA 74 IN MARCH. THE ONLY WAY
IN WHICH WE CAN SEE U.S. PARTICIPATION AS MINIMALLY
HARMFUL IS IF PAKISTAN ALSO PARTICIPATES ACTIVELY
WITH AS MANY SHIPS AS THE U.S., THUS MAKING THIS A
TRUE CENTO EXERCISE. RELABELLING ARYA 74 A CENTO
EXERCISE WITHOUT PAKISTANI PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT
HELP.

AKINS

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